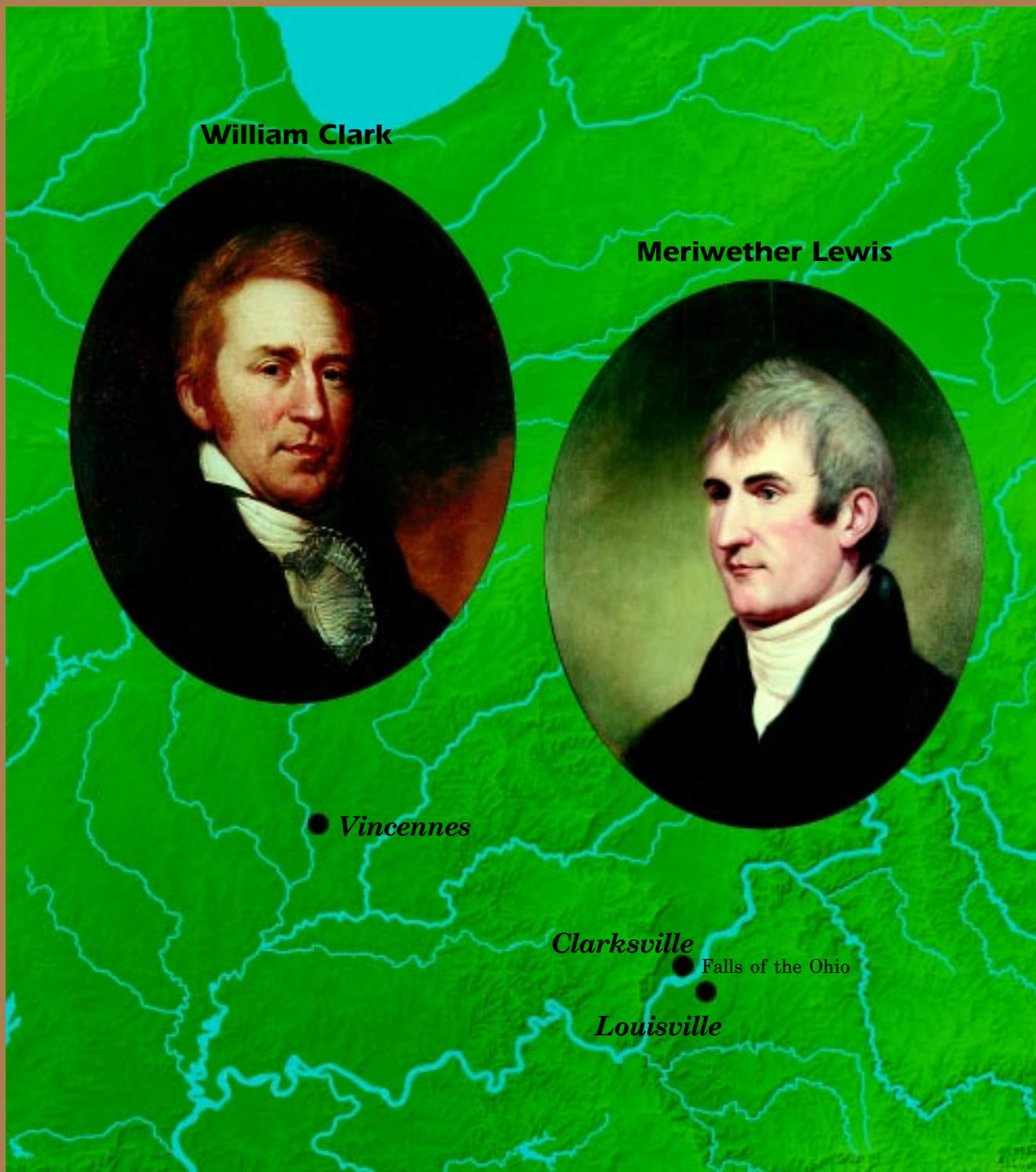


Lewis and Clark— Indiana Connections



William Clark

Meriwether Lewis

● Vincennes

Clarksville

● Falls of the Ohio

● Louisville

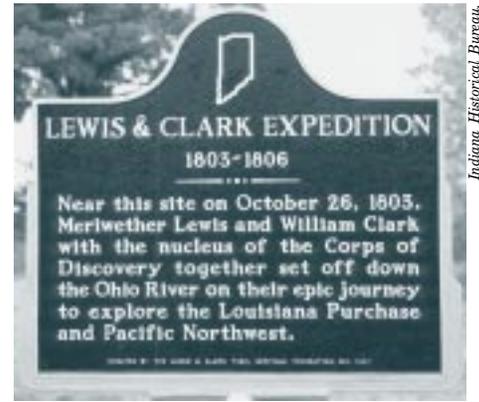
Focus

As the marker here indicates, the state of Indiana has an important, recognized connection to the Lewis and Clark Expedition. That connection is being reinforced with a National Signature Event in Clarksville in October 2003.

There is more to it than that, however. What many people forget is that until the party left its winter camp in May 1804, it remained in Indiana Territory, governed from Vincennes by William Henry Harrison. Harrison and Vincennes were an important juncture for contact between the party and President Thomas Jefferson.

Some core members of the expedition party—the so-called “nine young men from Kentucky”—left with the party from the Falls of the Ohio, which referred to both Kentucky and Indiana Territory across the Ohio River. The lives of these men—and their roles on the expedition—are briefly reviewed in the chart on pages 12-13. Some of these men had personal, military, and/or family connections with each other and with Meriwether Lewis and William Clark, who trusted them for this mission. Lewis, Clark, Harrison, and Jefferson had close ties and confidence in each other through military experience, family and other networks, and their visions for the future of the new United States. These connections helped make the expedition succeed and helped advance Jefferson’s vision during and after the expedition.

The specific focus of this issue of *The Indiana Historian* is Indiana connections. The organizing unit is a timeline occupying pages 3-11. Also on these pages are maps, biographical sketches, excerpts from letters, and newspaper articles which enlarge upon the timeline. Blue dates on the timeline indicate that items are included specifically related to the timeline entry.



Indiana Historical Bureau

Marker is located at the Falls of the Ohio State Park, Clarksville, Clark County.

Cover portraits: William Clark was painted by Charles Willson Peale, from life, 1807-1808. Meriwether Lewis was also painted by Charles Willson Peale, from life, 1807. The reproductions on the cover were used courtesy of the Independence National Historical Park, Philadelphia.

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Editor

Pamela J. Bennett

Lead Researcher

Paula A. Bongen

Designer and Researcher

Dani B. Pfaff

Contributing Editors

Carole M. Allen, Janine Beckley,
Paula Bongen, Alan Conant

The Indiana Historian provides resources and models for the study of local history to encourage Indiana’s citizens of all ages to become engaged with the history of their communities and the state of Indiana.

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E-MAIL ihb@statelib.lib.in.us

INTERNET www.IN.gov/history

Timeline references and other selected materials are intended to enhance an understanding of the importance of the Falls of the Ohio area at the start and its part at the end of the expedition. They are also intended to indicate the involvement of Governor Harrison and Indiana Territory—including the area that is now the State of Indiana—with the expedition.

The essay on page 14 provides a brief overview of the context of the expedition, especially with regard to the American Indians and Jefferson’s vision.

There are extraordinary primary resources on the expedition, including Moulton’s thirteen volumes of the journals and Jackson’s two volumes of the letters of the expedition. Holmberg’s recent volume of letters from William Clark to his brother Jonathan provides additional valuable insights. The Resources section on page 15 indicates many of the basic sources documenting the expedition and its importance in United States and world history.

Indiana’s citizens should take pride in the role that Indiana and Indiana’s men played in this monumental event.

Background— July 4, 1776 through October 1, 1800

July 4, 1776. British colonies in North America declare independence.

September 3, 1783. Peace treaty with Britain, signed in Paris, recognizes U.S. independence.

December 4, 1783. (*Annapolis, Md.*) Thomas Jefferson writes to George Rogers Clark asking if he is interested in leading an expedition to explore the West (Jackson, 2: 654-55).

February 8, 1784. (*Richmond, Va.*) George Rogers Clark declines to lead western exploration but offers some advice (Jackson, 2: 655-56).

Summer 1786. Jefferson encourages John Ledyard's plan to travel across Russia to Siberia, cross the Bering Strait to North America, and return to Washington. Ledyard does not succeed (Ambrose, 69).

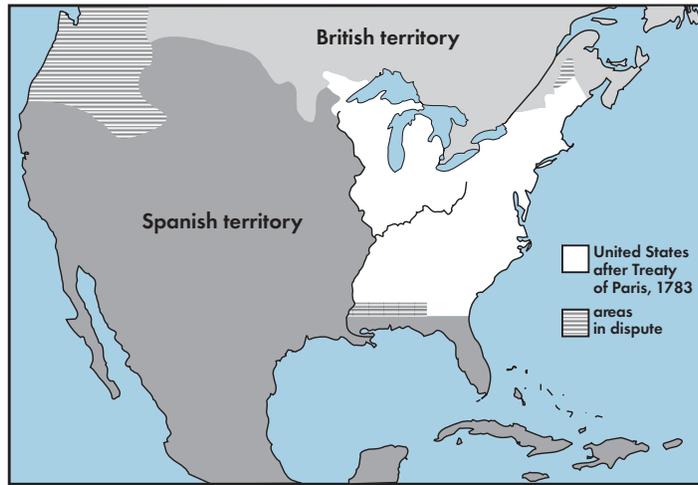
July 13, 1787. Northwest Ordinance establishes and provides system of government for Northwest Territory.

1793. Jefferson and the American Philosophical Society sponsor French botanist, André Michaux, to find a convenient route to the Pacific Ocean. Michaux is found to be a spy and is called back to France (Ambrose, 70-71).

May 7, 1800. Congress splits Northwest Territory into two territories: Indiana Territory and Northwest Territory.

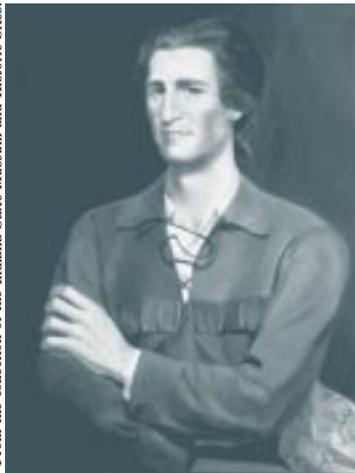
May 13, 1800. William Henry Harrison is appointed governor of Indiana Territory.

October 1, 1800. Napoleon's secret treaty with Spain returns the territory of Louisiana to France.



September 3, 1783. After the American Revolution, the United States was surrounded by foreign territory, Spanish to the west and British to the north. Thomas Jefferson had continuing concerns about the security of the U.S. from foreign aggression, which helped to guide his vision and his actions before and during his presidency.

From the collection of the Indiana State Museum and Historic Sites

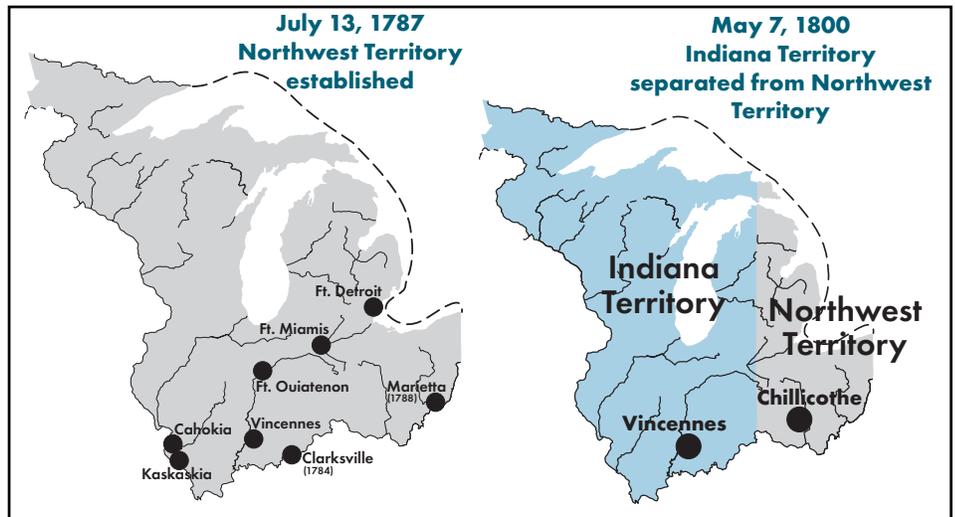


George Rogers Clark, as a young man, painted by Rosemary Brown Beck based on descriptions in primary sources.

February 8, 1784. George Rogers Clark to Thomas Jefferson

"Your proposition respecting a tour to the west and North west of the Continent would be Extremely agreeable to me could I afford it . . . It is what I think we ought to do. . . . Large parties [however] will . . . allarm the Indian Nations they pass through. Three or four young Men well qualified for the Task might perhaps compleat your wishes at a very Trifling Expençe" (Jackson, 2: 655-56).

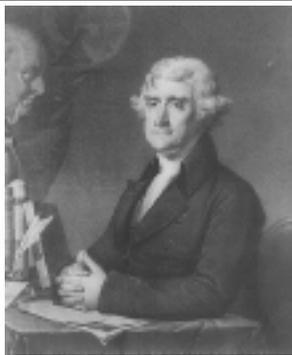
In 1779, Clark led the successful campaign against the British at Fort Sackville (Vincennes). He helped settle the site of Louisville (1778) and established Clarksville (1784) at the Falls of the Ohio.



Expedition Authorized— March 4, 1801 through February 28, 1803

December 12, 1802.
**George Rogers Clark
to Thomas Jefferson**

"He [William Clark] is well qualified almost for any business. If it should be in your power to confur on him any post of Honor and profit, in this COUNTRY in which we live, it will exceedingly gratify me" (Jackson, 1: 7-8).



Gilbert Stuart, artist. "Thomas Jefferson, third president of the United States." 1828 (©) By Popular Demand: Portraits of the Presidents and First Ladies, 1789-Present, Library of Congress.

March 4, 1801. Jefferson is inaugurated President of the United States.

1801. Alexander Mackenzie's *Voyages from Montreal . . . to the Frozen and Pacific Oceans: In the Years 1789 and 1793* is published in London. He urges Great Britain to find suitable passage to the Pacific Ocean and to extend its fur trade into the northwestern interior (Ambrose, 74-75).

December 12, 1802. (*Falls of the Ohio*). George Rogers Clark writes Jefferson promoting his brother William for service to the government (Jackson, 1: 7-8).

January 18, 1803. Jefferson submits a confidential request to Congress for \$2,500 to explore the Missouri and the way to the Pacific Ocean to expand fur trade and geographical knowledge of the continent (Jackson, 1: 10-14).

February 8, 1803. Harrison is reappointed governor of Indiana Territory and appointed ex officio superintendent of Indian affairs (Clanin, Reel 1, lxxxvi).

February 27, 1803. Jefferson writes to Harrison stating his goals and policy with regard to American Indians, ordering Harrison to obtain quickly as much land by treaty as possible. See p. 14 of this issue.

February 28, 1803. Congress approves Jefferson's request for money to explore the West (Jackson, 1: 14).

February 28, 1803. Jefferson writes to Benjamin Rush describing the expedition and naming Meriwether Lewis as leader. He asks Rush, a prominent physician, to help prepare Lewis for the trip (Jackson, 1: 18-19).

Francis Vigo Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution.



William Henry Harrison

William Henry Harrison was born in Virginia in 1773. He joined the U.S. Army in 1791, served with General Anthony Wayne at the Battle of Fallen Timbers (1794), and was present at signing of Treaty of Greenville (1795). From Vincennes, he served as governor of Indiana Territory from 1800-1812, negotiating treaties with Indian tribes for millions of acres of land. Harrison commanded the U.S. Army in the Northwest during the War of 1812, defeating the British at the Battle of the Thames. He served in both houses of the U.S. Congress representing Ohio. He was elected President of the U.S. in 1839 but died of pneumonia one month after his inauguration in 1840.

February 28, 1803.

Thomas Jefferson to Benjamin Rush

"I wish to mention to you in confidence that I have obtained authority from Congress to undertake the long desired object of exploring the Missouri & whatever river, heading with that, leads into the Western ocean. About 10. chosen woodsmen headed by Capt. Lewis my secretary, will set out on it immediately & probably accomplish it in two seasons. Capt. Lewis is brave, prudent, habituated to the woods, & familiar with Indian manners & character. . . . It would be very useful to state for him those objects on which it is most desirable he should bring us information. For this purpose I ask the favor of you to prepare some notes of such particulars as may occur in his journey & which you think should draw his attention & enquiry" (Jackson, 1:18-19).

Meriwether Lewis

Meriwether Lewis was born in Virginia in 1774. At age 18, he was managing his plantation in Virginia. He joined the militia in 1794 and the U.S. Army in 1795. Lewis served with General Anthony Wayne and was present at the signing of the Treaty of Greenville (1795). He served in a rifle company commanded by Captain William Clark. Lewis was promoted to captain in 1800, and, in 1801, President Thomas Jefferson asked him to serve as his private secretary in Washington. Jefferson appointed Lewis to head the expedition to the Northwest in 1803. Lewis was appointed governor of the Louisiana Territory in 1807. He committed suicide in 1809 leaving the journals of the expedition unpublished (Ambrose, 19, 21, 29, 37, 42, 45, 50, 59, 80, 415, 465, 467).

Expedition Preparation— April 20, 1803 through July 24, 1803

April 20, 1803. (*Lancaster, Pa.*) Lewis updates Jefferson on preparations for the trip—plans for recruiting men, the purchase of boats, obtaining weapons (Jackson, 1: 37-41).

April 27, 1803. Jefferson writes Lewis enclosing a rough draft of instructions for Lewis to consider and suggest changes (Jackson, 1: 44).

April 30, 1803. United States purchases territory of Louisiana from France for approximately \$15 million.

June 11, 1803. (*Philadelphia.*) Benjamin Rush writes Jefferson enclosing directions for Lewis on how to stay healthy during the expedition (Jackson, 1: 54-55).

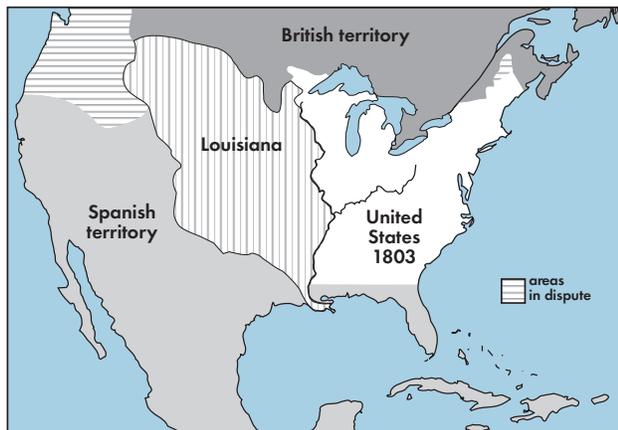
June 19, 1803. (*Washington.*) Lewis writes to his longtime friend William Clark giving him an overview of the expedition to the West and its objectives; he invites Clark to join him with equal pay and rank (Jackson, 1: 57-60).

June 20, 1803. Jefferson drafts written orders for Lewis to follow after the expedition leaves U.S. territory (Jackson, 1: 61-66).

July 15, 1803. (*Pittsburgh.*) Lewis informs Jefferson that he has arrived in Pittsburgh and that all is well (Jackson, 1: 110).

July 18, 1803. (*Clarksville.*) William Clark writes Lewis accepting his invitation to join the expedition to the West (Jackson, 1: 110-11). See August 28, 1803 letter p. 6.

July 24, 1803. (*Louisville.*) Clark writes Lewis re-affirming his acceptance of Lewis' invitation and informs Lewis that he has engaged some possible recruits for the trip (Jackson, 1: 112-13).



April 30, 1803.

United States purchased Louisiana from France. The purchase almost doubled the land area of the United States. It also meant that the Lewis and Clark expedition was in American territory for much of the trip.

June 19, 1803. Meriwether Lewis to William Clark

"From the long and uninterrupted friendship and confidence which has subsisted between us I feel no hesitation in making to you the following communication under the fulest impression that it will be held by you inviolably secret

During the last session of Congress a law was passed in conformity to a private message of the President to give the sanction of the government to exploring the interior of the continent of North America, or that part of it bordering on the Missouri & Columbia Rivers. This enterprise has been confided to me by the President I will now give you a short sketch of my plan of operation: I shall embark at Pittsburgh when descending the Ohio it shall be my duty by enquiry to find out and engage some good hunters, stout, healthy, unmarried men, accustomed to the woods, and capable of bearing bodily fatigue in a pretty considerable degree: should any young men answering this discription be found in your neighborhood learn the probability of their engaging in this service

. . . . If therefore there is anything under those circumstances, in this enterprise, which would induce you to participate with me in it's fatigues, it's dangers and it's honors, believe me there is no man on earth with whom I should feel equal pleasure in sharing them as with yourself; I make this communication to you with the privity of the President, who expresses an anxious wish that you would consent to join me in this enterprise" (Jackson, 1: 57-60).

William Clark

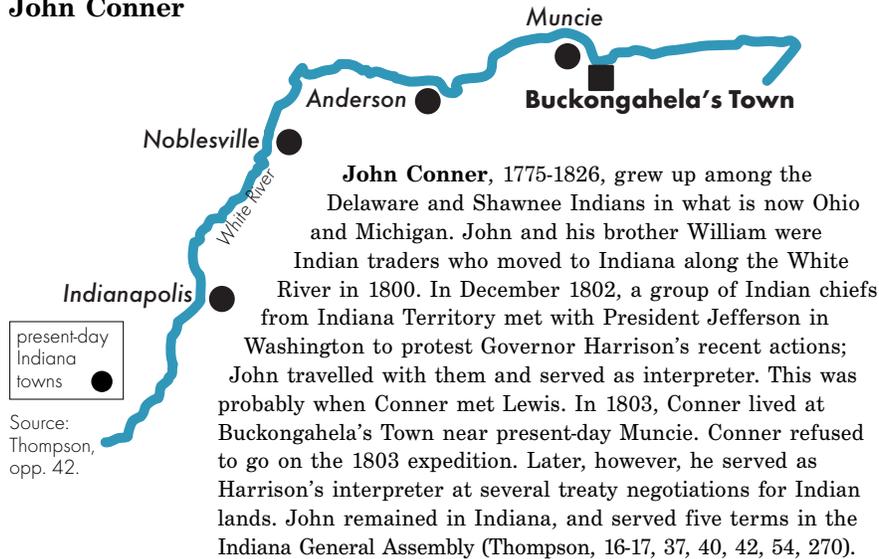
William Clark was born in Virginia in 1770, the younger brother of General George Rogers Clark. In 1785, his family settled in Jefferson County, Kentucky. In 1792, Clark was appointed second lieutenant in the U.S. Army; he served under General Anthony Wayne and participated in the Battle of Fallen Timbers (1794). He was the captain of a rifle company in which Meriwether Lewis served. Clark resigned from the army in 1796 to focus on family affairs. In 1803, Lewis invited him to help lead the expedition to the Northwest. In 1807, Clark was appointed chief Indian agent and brigadier general of the militia for Louisiana Territory. He served as governor of Louisiana Territory. He died at St. Louis in 1838 (Holmberg, *Brother*, xxvii-xxx; Ambrose, 45).

July 18, 1803. William Clark to Meriwether Lewis

"I received by yesterdays Mail, your letter of the 19th The enterprise &c. is Such as I have long anticipated and am much pleased with—and as my situation in life will admit of my absence the length of time necessary to accomplish such an undertaking I will chearfully join you in an 'official Charrector' as mentioned in your letter, and partake of the dangers, difficulties, and fatigues, and I anticipate the honors & rewards of the result of such an enterprise, should we be successful in accomplishing it. . . . My friend I do assure you that no man lives whith whome I would perfur to undertake Such a Trip &c. as your self" (Jackson, 1: 110-11).

Expedition Preparation Continues— August 3, 1803 through September 11, 1803

John Conner



John Conner, 1775-1826, grew up among the Delaware and Shawnee Indians in what is now Ohio and Michigan. John and his brother William were Indian traders who moved to Indiana along the White River in 1800. In December 1802, a group of Indian chiefs from Indiana Territory met with President Jefferson in Washington to protest Governor Harrison's recent actions; John travelled with them and served as interpreter. This was probably when Conner met Lewis. In 1803, Conner lived at Buckongahela's Town near present-day Muncie. Conner refused to go on the 1803 expedition. Later, however, he served as Harrison's interpreter at several treaty negotiations for Indian lands. John remained in Indiana, and served five terms in the Indiana General Assembly (Thompson, 16-17, 37, 40, 42, 54, 270).

September 11, 1803.

William Clark to Meriwether Lewis

"Agreeable to your wish I sent an express to the Delaware Towns on White River . . . Connor has a verry large assortment of goods on hand and cant accompany us . . . He Says that if he had 'nothing to do at the prest. he would not oblege himself for the sum I offered him (300) pr. & should not think himself two much recompensed for 5000\$ even if he was able to leave his home" (Jackson, 1: 123).

August 28, 1803. Henry Dearborn to Thomas Jefferson

"Mr. W. Clark's having consented to accompany Capt. Lewis is highly interesting, it adds very much to the ballance of chances in favour of ultimate success" (Jackson, 1: 117n).

September 1, 1803. Lewis Journal

"The Pilott informed that we were not far from a ripple which was much worse than any we had yet passed . . . we passed the *little horsetale* ripple or riffle with much deficulty, all hands laboured in the water about two hours before we effected a passage; the next obstruction we met was the *big-horse tale* riffle, here we wer obliged to unload all our goods and lift the emty Boat over, about 5 OCock we reach the riffle called Woollery's trap, here after unloading again and exerting all our force we found it impracticable to get over, I therefore employed a man with a team of oxen with the assistance of which we at length got off we put in and remained all night having made only ten miles this day" (Moulton, 2: 67).

August 3, 1803. (Pittsburgh).

Lewis informs Clark that he has received Clark's letters agreeing to accompany him; as soon as his boat is completed, he will set off for the Falls area. Lewis indicates that John Conner in February 1803 offered to go on the expedition as interpreter. Conner had not answered Lewis' letter of acceptance. He asks Clark to contact Conner. He announces that the treaty for purchase of the territory of Louisiana was received in Washington July 14 (Jackson, 1: 115-17). See John Conner this page.

August 21, 1803. (Louisville).

Clark writes to Lewis that he has "engaged . . . the best woodsmen & Hunters . . . in this part of the Country. . . ." He agrees to write to Conner (Jackson, 1: 117-18).

August 26, 1803. (Falls of the Ohio).

Clark writes to Conner asking him if his earlier offer to Lewis to serve as an interpreter on the expedition is still valid. Clark offers Conner \$300 a year, provisions, and clothing (Jackson, 1: 118-19).

August 31, 1803.

Lewis' Journal: Lewis and a party of eleven men start down the Ohio River from Pittsburgh (Moulton, 2: 65-67).

September 3, 1803.

William Clark assigns power of attorney to his brother Jonathon in Louisville (Holmberg, Timeline).

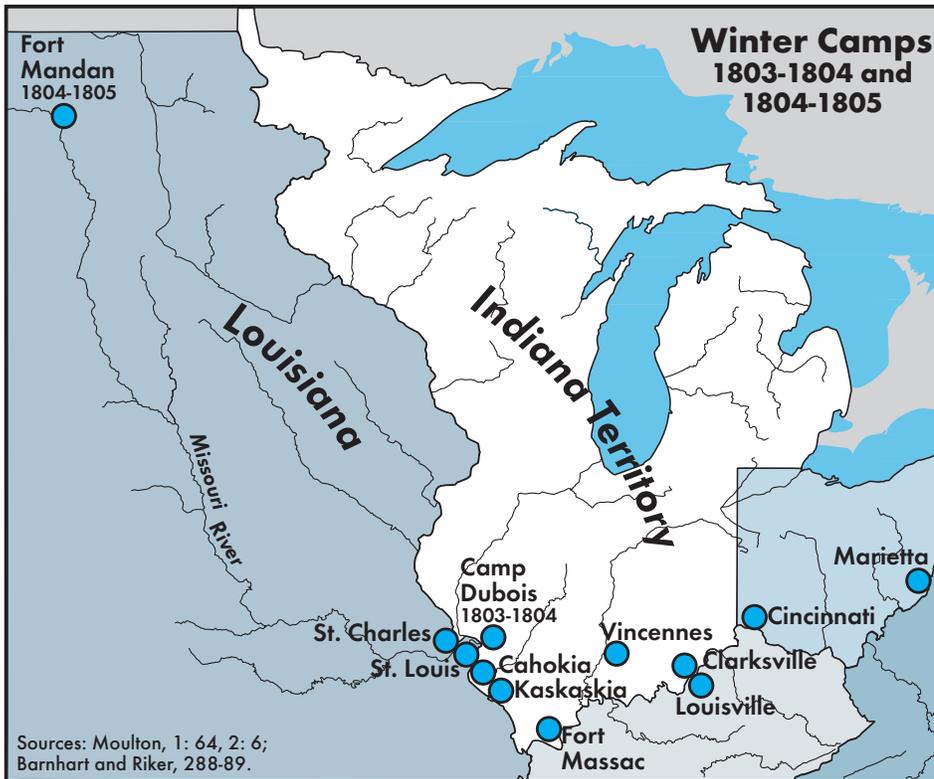
September 8, 1803. (Wheeling, Va.).

Lewis writes to Jefferson describing the departure from Pittsburgh and the trip down the Ohio River to Wheeling (Jackson, 1: 121-23). See September 1, 1803 Lewis Journal this page.

September 11, 1803. (Near Louisville).

Clark writes Lewis that Conner is not interested in joining the expedition to the West (Jackson, 1: 123-24).

Expedition Continues— December 7, 1803 through May 21, 1804



December 7, 1803. Clark's Journal: Clark and party arrive at the landing at Cahokia, Indiana Territory (Moulton, 2: 127-28).

December 12, 1803. Clark's Journal: Clark and party land in Indiana Territory across from the mouth of the Missouri River. On the south bank of the Wood River, Clark establishes the winter camp for the expedition, called Camp Dubois (Moulton, 2: 131-32). See map this page.

March 10, 1804. At St. Louis, France transferred Upper Louisiana to the U.S. Captains Lewis and Clark likely attended the event (Moulton, 2: 174).

March 26, 1804. Secretary of War Henry Dearborn writes to Lewis to inform him that Clark's military appointment can be no higher than lieutenant but his compensation will be the same as Lewis' (Jackson, 1: 172-73).

May 6, 1804. (*St. Louis*). Lewis sends Clark his commission as lieutenant and suggests that they let no one know that Clark is not a captain, the rank held by Lewis (Jackson, 1: 179-80).

May 14, 1804. Clark's Journal: Clark and the party of 38 men set off from Camp Dubois, Indiana Territory up the Missouri River (Moulton, 2: 227).

May 21, 1804. Clark writes to his brother-in-law in Kentucky that Lewis has finally joined the party at St. Charles after being detained in St. Louis with arrangements to send Osage chiefs to Washington. They continue up the Missouri immediately, heading for winter camp at Fort Mandan (Jackson, 1: 195-96). See June 3, 1804 letter this page.

May 14, 1804. Clark Journal

"Set out from Camp River a Dubois at 4 o'clock P. M. and proceeded up the Missouri under Sail to the first Island in the Missouri and Camped on the upper point opposit a Creek on the South Side below a ledge of limestone rock Called Colewater, made 4 1/2 miles, the Party Consisted of 2, Self one frenchman and 22 Men in the Boat of 20 ores, 1 Serjt. & 7 french in a large Perogue, a Corp and 6 Soldiers in a large Perogue. a Cloudy rainy day. wind from the N E. men in high Spirits" (Moulton, 2: 227).

June 3, 1804. Amos Stoddard to Henry Dearborn

"Captain Lewis, with his party, began to ascend the Missouri from the village of St. Charles on the 21 Ultimo. . . . [He] began his expedition with a Barge of 18 oars, attended by two large perogues; all of which were deeply laden, and well manned. I have heard from him about 60 miles on his route, and it appears, that he proceeds about 15 miles per day—a celerity seldom witnessed on the Missouri; and this is the more extraordinary as the time required to ascertain the courses of the river and to make other necessary observations, must considerably retard his progress. *His men possess great resolution and they [are in the best] health and spirits*" (Jackson, 1: 196). Note: Stoddard was civil and military commandant of Upper Louisiana. He assisted with preparations for the expedition; several of his men went on the expedition (Moulton, 2: 145n).

Expedition Continues— October 1, 1804 through August 9, 1805

October 1, 1804. Harrison, governor of Indiana Territory, is also named administrator of the District of Louisiana (Clanin, Reel 1, p. lxxxvii).

October 2, 1804. Harrison leaves Vincennes for St. Louis to set up a new government in the District of Louisiana (Clanin, Reel 1, p. lxxxvii).

April 7, 1805. (*Fort Mandan*). Small party is sent back to St. Louis with specimens for Jefferson, letters and gifts, and Indian chiefs to visit Washington; Clark included letters to his brother and Harrison (Moulton, 3: 327-32). See other items this page.

May 22, 1805. (*St. Louis*). Pierre Chouteau writes to Harrison requesting instructions for conducting the Indian chiefs from Fort Mandan on to Washington (Jackson, 1: 242-44).

May 27, 1805. (*Vincennes*). Harrison writes back to Chouteau agreeing that the Indians' trip to Washington should be postponed, if the Indian chiefs agree, until cooler weather arrives (Jackson, 1: 247-48).

May 27, 1805. Harrison writes Secretary of War Dearborn to inform him of the possible travel of Indian chiefs to Washington. Harrison also relays that Clark has sent him a letter saying that all is well (Jackson, 1: 246-47).

July 4, 1805. District of Louisiana made a separate territory; General James Wilkinson is named governor (Clanin, Reel 2, p. xliii).

August 9, 1805. Zebulon Pike, commissioned by Wilkinson, begins expedition to explore the source of the Mississippi River, which was another of Jefferson's priorities.

April 2, 1805. William Clark to William Henry Harrison

"By the return of a party which we send from this place with dispatches, I do myself the pleasure of giving you a summary view of the Missouri, &c.

. . . The country on both sides of the Missouri . . . has . . . extensive fertile plains, with but very little timber, and that little principally confined to the river bottoms and streams. . . this country abounds in a great variety of wild animals but a few of which the Indians take, many of those animals are uncommon in the U. States, such as white, red and grey bears, long ear'd male or black tailed deer (black at the end of the tail only) large hare, antelope or goat, the red fox, the ground prairie dog, (burrows in the ground) the baroca, which has a head like a dog, and the size of a small dog, the white brant, magpye, calumet eagle, &c and many other are said to inhabit the rocky mountains" (Jackson, 1: 227-30).

Cincinnati (Ohio) Western Spy, June 26, 1805.

VINCENNES, I. T. June 6.
One of the company of Clark and Lewis passed through this place a few days ago from whom we learn—that they had succeeded on their way up the Missouri to make, without meeting with any material objection.—Charles Floyd, one of the company died some time last fall; they camped last winter, in the nation of Mandan Indians, within a few miles of one of the large towns—the different tribes of Indians through which they passed, had generally treated them in the most friendly manner they proceeded on their route, all in good health, the 20th of April last, at which time this gentleman also parted.

One of the party sent back from Fort Mandan on April 7 by Lewis and Clark traveled through Vincennes, probably delivering Clark's letter to Harrison, and then to Louisville with a letter for Jonathan Clark.

April 1805. William Clark to Jonathan Clark.

"I send to you three Boxes containing the following articles viz: 1 Shirt worn by the mandan Indian women . . . made of the Skins of the Antelope or goat, 1 pr. Chiefs mockersons with white Buffalow Skin tops (a white buffalow Skin Sels in this Country for about fifteen horses) 2 pr. of Summer & 1 pr. of winter mockersons Com all of Buffalow Skin, The Skin & horns of an Antelope or goat . . . 1 pr. of Mandan legins of the Antelope Skins, The Skins of 2 Burrowing Dogs or barking Squirrels . . . The Skin of a Barow, which burrows in the grown 2 white hare Skins . . . Some Specimons of the Corn of this Country . . . Ricara Tobacco Seed, the flower, leaves & Stems of which they Smoke. . . .

3 horns of the mountain Ram all Small one a faun . . . much prized by the Indians (one for Govr. Harrison) a parchment Case Dressed and used by the mandans to carry their valueable articles in. . . . 1 Skin of a Red fox . . . a Specimon of Indian artachokes common in the plains . . . 1 Small pot in the Mandan fashion. 1 Spoon of the horn of the mountain Ram" (Holmberg, *Brother*, 84-86).

Expedition Returns— September 23, 1806 through October 30, 1806



Indiana Historical Bureau.

Marker is located at Old Pioneer Cemetery, Waynetown, Montgomery County, where Bratton is buried.

October 10, 1806. William Bratton's discharge

"To all whom it may concern

Know ye, that the bearer hereof Willm. Bratton, private in a corps destined for the discovery of the interior of the continent of North America, having faithfully discharged his duty in said capacity so long as his services have been necessary to complete the objects of a Voyage to the Pacific Ocean, is in virtue of the authority vested in me by the President of the United States hereby discharged from the military service of the said States; and as a tribute justly due the merits of the said Willm. Bratton, I with cheerfullness declare that the ample support which he gave me under every difficulty, the manly firmness which he evinced on every necessary occasion, and the fortitude with which he bore the fatigues and painful sufferings incident to that long Voyage, entitled him to my highest confidence and sincere thanks; while it eminently recommends him to the consideration and respect of his fellow Citizens.

Meriwether Lewis Capt.

1st U.S. Regt. Infy." (Jackson, 2: 347)

September 23, 1806.

Lewis to Jefferson

"It is with pleasure that I announce to you the safe arrival of myself and party at 12 O'Clk. today at this place [St. Louis] with our papers and baggage. In obedience to your orders we have penetrated the Continent of North America to the Pacific Ocean, and sufficiently explored the interior of the country to affirm with confidence that we have discovered the most practicable rout which dose exist across the continent by means of the navigable branches of the Missouri and Columbia Rivers. . . .

We view this passage . . . affording immense advantages to the fur trade. . . .

With respect to the exertions and services rendered by that esteemable man Capt. William Clark in the course of late voyage I cannot say too much; if sir any credit be due for the success of that arduous enterprize in which we have been mutually engaged, he is equally with myself entitled to your consideration and that of our common country. . . .

The rout by which I purpose traveling from hence to Washington is by way of Cahokia, Vincennes, Louisvill Ky. [etc.]" (Jackson, 1: 319-25).

September 23, 1806.

Clark's Journal

"descended to the Mississippi and down that river to St. Louis at which place we arived about 12 oClock. we Suffered the party to fire off their pieces as a Salute to the Town. we were met by all the village and received a hartly welcom from it's inhabitants &c. . . . as the post had departed from St. Louis Capt Lewis wrote a note to Mr. Hay in Kahoka to detain the post at that place untill 12 tomorrow" (Moulton, 8: 370-71).

September 23, 1806. (*St. Louis*). Lewis writes Jefferson of the party's safe return and describes the expedition and the potential for fur trade (Jackson, 1: 319-25).

September 23, 1806. (*St. Louis*). Clark writes his brother Jonathan informing him that the expedition has returned to St. Louis and describing part of the journey (Jackson, 1: 325-30). See Clark's Journal this page.

September 24, 1806. (*St. Louis*). Clark's Journal: Clark writes to Harrison and to friends in Kentucky (Moulton, 8: 371-72).

September 24, 1806. (*St. Louis*). Clark writes to his brother Jonathan giving possible time of arrival in Louisville by way of Vincennes and giving permission for his letter of September 23 to be published in the newspapers (Holmberg, *Brother*, 115-18). See p. 11, October 9, 1806 item.

October 10, 1806. (*St. Louis*). Clark returns his commission as lieutenant to Secretary of War Dearborn; it was accepted February 27, 1807 (Jackson, 1: 347).

October 10, 1806. (*St. Louis*). Members of the Corps of Discovery are officially discharged from service (Holmberg, *Brother*, 116-17). See Bratton this page.

October 26, 1806. Jefferson writes Lewis of his happiness at the safe return of Lewis, Clark, and their men (Jackson, 1: 350-51).

October 30, 1806. (*Vincennes*). Lewis sends Bills of Exchange to Secretary of War Dearborn for payment. One is for \$500 owed to George Wallace, Jr., a merchant in Vincennes and a contractor for army rations (Jackson, 1: 349).

After the Expedition— November 5, 1806 through March 1807

November 5, 1806. Lewis and Clark and their entourage arrive at the Falls of the Ohio (Holmberg, *Brother*, 117).

November 8, 1806. Jonathan Clark, Lewis, and William Clark attend a family celebration at William Croghan's Locust Grove estate (Holmberg, Timeline).

Circa November 11, 1806. Lewis and most of the party, including two Indian delegations, leave Louisville for Washington (Holmberg, Timeline).

December 2, 1806. Jefferson revises his Annual Message to Congress to report on the return of the Lewis and Clark expedition (Jackson, 1: 352-53).

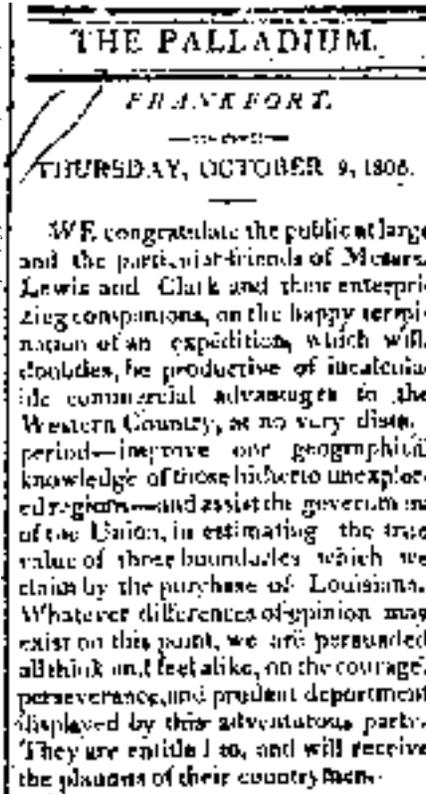
Circa December 15, 1806. Clark, probably with his slave York, leaves Louisville for the East (Holmberg, Timeline). See January 22, 1807 letter.

February 28, 1807. Jefferson nominates Lewis to be Governor of Louisiana Territory and Clark promoted to Lieutenant Colonel. Clark's promotion is not approved. However, in March, Clark is appointed superintendent of Indian affairs for Louisiana Territory and brigadier-general of militia for the territory (Jackson, 1: 376).

March 3, 1807. Act passes U.S. House and Senate compensating Lewis, Clark, and their men with land and double wages for service on the expedition (Jackson, 2: 377-78).

After March 3, 1807. Eight of the expedition members sign a petition to Congress asking that their warrants be acceptable immediately for land in Indiana Territory or Louisiana Territory where several of them already reside (Jackson, 2: 378-80).

Frankfort (Ky.) The Palladium, October 9, 1806.

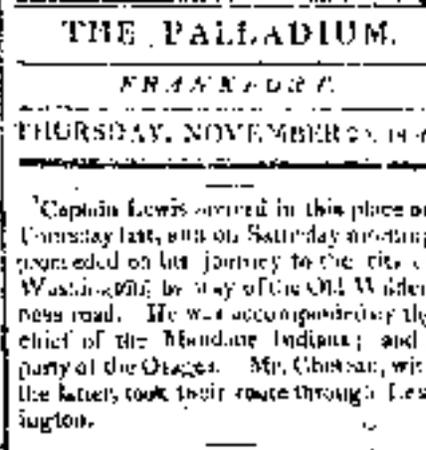


October 9, 1806. This newspaper also included Clark's entire letter of September 23, 1806 to his brother Jonathan summarizing the expedition.

January 22, 1807. William Clark to Jonathan Clark

"I arrived here [Washington] on Sunday evening and since that time have been engaged in formal visits to the heads of departments and partaking of the sumptuous fare of many of the members . . . my old western friends do not forsake me and appear happy that they have it in their power to pay me much respect which appears to be the general disposition of every member of Congress with whom I have become acquainted. . . . a Committee is appointed to bring in a bill giving Compensation to the Party on the late Expedition. I think the Committee will report 2 Sects. of Land to Capt. Lewis and my Self each, and half a Section and half pay to the men, the most of the members appear favourable to a liberal appropriation . . . I most probably will return to your house in Public Service, but what Situation I shall be in is not yet determined on" (Holmberg, *Brother*, 119-20).

Frankfort (Ky.) The Palladium, November 20, 1806.



Circa November 11, 1806. Lewis and Chouteau with a Mandan chief and a group of Osage chiefs arrived in Frankfort, Ky. November 13. Lewis left for Washington via the Old Wilderness Road November 15. Chouteau headed east through Lexington, Ky.

Introducing the “nine young men from Kentucky” and York, Clark’s slave

The “nine young men” were the first recruits for the permanent party; they departed from Clarksville, Indiana Territory with Lewis, Clark, York and others on October 26, 1803. The information for this chart has been gathered from a variety sources. The citations—and in some cases additional information—are included in the Web database version of this chart at <www.IN.gov/history>.

| Name | Birth place | Birth/Death | Service/Pay | Comments |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------|---|--|---|
| William Bratton | Augusta Co., Va. | 7/29/1778–11/11/1841 | 10/20/03–10/10/06 35 months, 20 days \$178.33 1/3 | Rank: Private. Duties: Blacksmith, hunter. On May 11, 1805, Bratton shoots a bear, but it chases him. He rejoins the Corps; they track and kill the bear and dress it. They render eight gallons of bear’s oil and store in kegs. On May 24, 1806, Bratton is unable to walk from the pain in his lower back; he endures a severe Indian sweat treatment administered by John Shields, which cures him almost immediately. In Clark’s journal on July 17, 1806, he calls a large creek Brattens Creek, presumably after Bratton. After the expedition, he lives in Kentucky and fights in the War of 1812. He marries Nov. 25, 1819. On Nov. 8, 1822, he enters land in Wayne Township, Montgomery County, Ind.; he holds several public offices there. On Nov. 11, 1841 he dies and is buried in the pioneer cemetery, Waynetown. See also p. 10 of this issue. |
| John Colter | Virginia | circa 1775–circa 1813 | 10/15/03–10/10/06 35 months, 26 days \$179.33 1/3 | Rank: Private. Hunter. On June 18, 1805, Colter is chased by white [grizzly] bear and forced into the Missouri River to escape. In Clark’s journal on Oct. 8, 1805, he mentions a creek that is named after John Colter. According to Clark’s journal on Aug. 15, 1806, Colter is allowed to leave the party and return up the Missouri River with some trappers. He is given that privilege “as we were disposed to be of service to any one of our party who had performed their duty as well as Colter had done.” Colter spends four years as a trapper and is apparently the first white man to see what is now Yellowstone Park. He settles in Mo. and marries; he dies of jaundice in 1813. |
| Joseph Field Reubin Field | Virginia Virginia | circa 1780–1807 circa 1781–early 1823? | 8/1/03–10/10/06 38 months, 10 days \$191.66 2/3 8/1/03–10/10/06 38 months, 10 days \$191.66 2/3 | Rank: both Privates. Duties: Two of best marksmen and hunters. The trust and confidence Lewis and Clark had in the Field brothers is confirmed in the over 220 references to them in the journals. On July 27, 1806, Joseph, Reubin, Lewis and others are in a skirmish with some Blackfoot Indians; one or two of the Indians are killed. This is the only recorded incident in which members of the expedition take the lives of any humans. Lewis indicates that Joseph and Reubin are “Two of the most active and enterprising young men who accompanied us. It was their peculiar fate to have been engaged in all the most dangerous and difficult scenes of the voyage, in which they uniformly acquitted themselves with much honor.” How Joseph dies is not clear; he and his brother are in St. Louis in the spring of 1807, his death is confirmed in October 1807, and Clark later indicates that he was “killed.” Little is known about Reubin’s life after the expedition. He settles in Ky. and marries in 1808. |
| Charles Floyd | Jefferson Co., Ky. | 1782–8/20/1804 | 8/1/03–8/20/04 12 months, 20 days \$86.33 1/3 | Rank: Sergeant. Duties: Appointed one of three sergeants in command of a squad, Apr. 1, 1804. While Lewis and Clark are in St. Louis in Apr. 1804, he is in charge of their quarters and the supplies. By 1799, Floyd’s family moves to Clarksville area; he is appointed first constable of Clarksville Township. He dies from an apparent ruptured appendix near present Sioux City, Iowa, where he is buried. Floyd’s River, Iowa bears his name. Lewis commends him as “A young man of much merit. His father, who now resides in Kentucky, is a man much respected, though possessed of but moderate wealth. As the son has lost his life whilst on this service, I consider his father entitled to some gratuity, in consideration of his loss; and also, that the deceased being noticed in this way, will be a tribute but justly due to his merit.” Floyd is the only man in the party to die on the expedition. |

| | | | | |
|-----------------|---------------------|--------------------|--|---|
| George Gibson | Pennsylvania | Unknown—1809 | 10/19/03—10/10/06 35 months, 21 days \$178.50 | Rank: Private. Duties: Expert marksman, hunter, interpreter, fiddle player; in charge of perogue. On July 18, 1806, while mounting his horse after shooting a deer, Gibson falls onto a one-inch diameter tree snag which goes two inches into his thigh. The wound is so painful that Gibson is incapacitated; by July 21, it is beginning to heal with Clark's treatment; on July 25 he is assigned to a mission to the Mandan Indians. Clark names the creek where Gibson is injured, Thy [thigh] Snag'd Creek. It is not clear what happened to Gibson after the expedition. He dies in St. Louis. |
| Nathaniel Pryor | Virginia | 1772—1831 | 10/20/03—10/10/06 35 months, 20 days \$278.50 | Rank: Sergeant. Duties: Appointed one of three sergeants in command of a squad, Apr. 1, 1804. Like all of the men in the Corps, Pryor does what is asked of him. Journal entries have him paddling canoes, hunting, and whatever else it takes for the survival of the Corps. In Sept. 1807, he leads an unsuccessful expedition to return a Mandan chief to his people. Lewis and Clark "considered him 'a man of character and ability' and after the expedition helped him secure an officer's commission in the army." Pryor stays in the Army until 1810. He then becomes an Indian trader on the Mississippi River and runs a lead-smelting furnace in northern Illinois Territory. He serves in the Army, 1813-1815, and fights at the Battle of New Orleans. He becomes a trader among the Osage Indians on the Arkansas River, marries an Osage woman, and remains with her tribe until his death. The towns of Pryor, Okla. and Mont., and the Pryor Mountains, Mont., bear his name. |
| George Shannon | Pennsylvania | 1785—1836 | 10/19/03—10/10/06 35 months, 21 days \$178.50 | Rank: Private. Duties: Hunter. On Aug. 26, 1804 in what is now S. Dak., he goes with another man to find lost horses and becomes separated. Sixteen days later on Sept. 11, he is found by the Corps near starvation. He believed he was behind the party but was actually ahead. They name the river, Shannon's River. In Sept. 1807, he is part of Pryor's unsuccessful expedition to return the Mandan chief; in an attack, his leg is injured and has to be amputated. In 1810, at Clark's request, he assists Nicholas Biddle in preparing the history of the expedition. Shannon studies law and is practicing in Lexington by 1815. He is active in politics in Ky. and later in Mo. He serves as U.S. attorney for the District of Missouri, 1830-1834. He dies and is buried in Palmyra, Mo. |
| John Shields | Rockingham Co., Va. | 1769—1809 | 10/19/03—10/10/06 35 months, 21 days \$178.50 | Rank: Private. Duties: Blacksmith, gunsmith, carpenter, hunter. Lewis notes that he "Has received the pay only of a private. Nothing was more peculiarly useful to us, in various situations, than the skill and ingenuity of this man as an artist, in repairing our guns, accoutrements, &c. and should it be thought proper to allow him something as an artificer, he has well deserved it." On May 11, 1806, Shields cured William Bratton with an Indian sweat treatment. The Shields River, Mont. still bears his name. After the expedition, Shields and Daniel Boone, apparently a kinsman, trap in Mo. for a year. Shields eventually settles in Indiana, near Corydon, where he dies and is buried. Although married, Shields was allowed to go on the expedition despite the "no married men rule." There is some evidence that Clark's brother may have helped Mrs. Shields with food and money during Shields absence. |
| York | Caroline Co., Va. ? | circa 1772—1820s ? | Went entire trip with no pay | York, as Clark's slave, is not assigned a particular role, but he "performed his full share of the duties with other members of the party," including hunting. York is the first African American to cross the U.S. from coast to coast. "Yorks dry river" and Yorks 8 Islands are named after him. York cares for Charles Floyd as they try to save his life in 1804. Indians, who have never seen a black man, are astonished by York. He was Clark's companion from childhood and was inherited by Clark from his father in 1799. After the expedition, York remains Clark's slave until possibly 1816; his relationship with Clark is described in several letters from Clark to his brother. York was married to a slave with a different owner before the expedition; he and Clark have problems after the expedition because York wants to be near his wife in Louisville. In an 1832 interview, Clark says York died of cholera sometime before 1832. Robert B. Betts, <i>In Search of York</i> (2nd ed., 2000) is a biography of York, updated and with an epilogue by Holmberg. |

Extending America's Reach

The Lewis and Clark Expedition did not take place in vacuum. It occurred because of President Thomas Jefferson's long fascination with the western lands and his vision for the young United States. Objectives to achieve that vision focused on economic and security concerns. One strategy involved acquisition of American Indian lands within the borders of the U.S. so that Americans could have more land on which to settle. The expedition was another strategy for achieving the objectives.

A document which addresses both strategies is Jefferson's confidential message to Congress, January 18, 1803, which resulted in the authorization of the Lewis and Clark Expedition (Jackson, 1:10-14). The message was related to reauthorizing trading posts for Indian tribes, and it served as a useful vehicle for proposing this American voyage of discovery.

In that message, Jefferson first makes the case to Congress that Indians must be enticed to assimilate and become part of the U.S. He cites the following reasons for action:

- growing Indian unrest regarding land sales,

- the need for Indians to abandon hunting and assume domestic occupations requiring less land, and
- the need to increase government trading posts to drive out for-profit commercial traders.

Jefferson then proposes an expedition to explore the Missouri River to the Western ocean, "the only line of easy communication across the continent." He cites as benefits:

- the Indian tribes and their extensive fur trade,
- the possibility of "conferences with the natives on the subject of commercial intercourse," and
- admission of American traders to the area.

He notes that the geographical knowledge gained will "be an additional gratification."

On February 27, 1803, the day before Congress approved the expedition, Jefferson wrote a private letter to William Henry Harrison, Governor of Indiana Territory. Jefferson laid out his policy with regard to American Indians in similar terms to the message to Congress but more bluntly. He feels this system "will best promote the interests

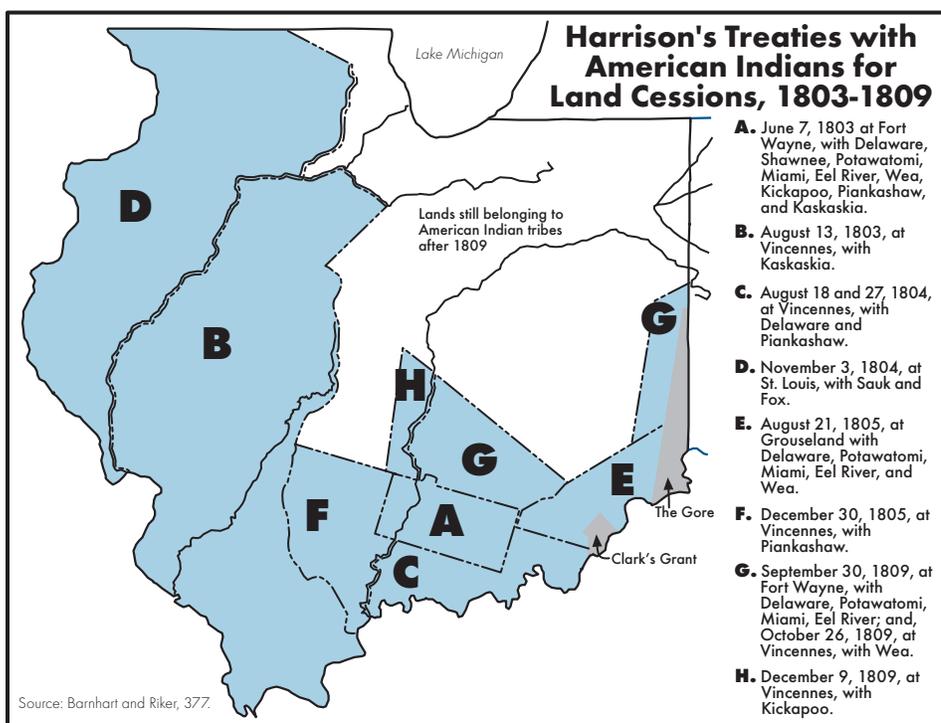
of the Indians & of ourselves, & finally consolidate our whole country into one nation only." He tells Harrison that they must concentrate on "the purchase and settlement of the country on the Missisipi from it's mouth to it's Northern regions, that we may be able to present as strong a front on our Western as on our Eastern border." Jefferson indicates that he has sent Harrison the authority to conclude treaties with the Indians in the Indiana Territory and tells him to move quickly to obtain any land possible (Clanin, Reel 1, pp. 519-24).

Part of Jefferson's concern was the situation in the Spanish territory of Louisiana on the western border of the U.S., which was about to be occupied by the French. The U.S. purchase of Louisiana from the French in the spring of 1803 provided a major impetus to Jefferson's vision.

The map on this page demonstrates how well Harrison accomplished Jefferson's order in the Indiana Territory. At the same time, the Lewis and Clark Expedition solidified the U.S. ownership of the territory of Louisiana, explored the western lands that would later become part of the U.S., and gathered extraordinary scientific information.

After the return of the expedition, Lewis was appointed governor of the Territory of Louisiana, and Clark was appointed superintendent of Indian affairs for that same territory. At that time, Harrison was still governor of Indiana Territory. All three men continued to be agents of Jefferson's policy to extinguish the land claims of American Indians and to protect the U.S. from foreign aggression.

Jefferson's vision, however, underestimated the desire of Americans to work and live in the lands to the west and the resistance to assimilation among most Indians. Harrison's Treaty of Fort Wayne in 1809 added to the increasing unrest among the Indians and strengthened the efforts of Tecumseh and the Prophet to unify the Indian tribes against the Americans.



Note Regarding Resources: Items are listed on this page that enhance work with the topic discussed. Some older items, especially, may include dated practices and ideas that are no longer generally accepted. Resources reflecting current practices are noted whenever possible.

Selected Resources

Bibliography

• Ambrose, Stephen E. *Undaunted Courage: Meriwether Lewis, Thomas Jefferson, and the Opening of the American West*. New York, 1996.

Exciting, well-told story of the expedition, but William Clark's role is minimized.

• Barnhart, John D., and Dorothy L. Riker. *Indiana to 1816: The Colonial Period*. Indianapolis, 1971.

Standard source for the period.

• Clanin, Douglas E., ed. *The Papers of William Henry Harrison, 1800-1815*. Indianapolis, 1994-1999.

This ten-reel microfilm edition (with printed guide) is the standard for Harrison materials.

• Holmberg, James J., ed. *Dear Brother: Letters of William Clark to Jonathan Clark*. New Haven, Conn., 2002.

Over fifty letters, most discovered in 1988, written by Clark before, during, and after the expedition provide fascinating insights about Clark and his time. Extensive footnotes are invaluable.

• Holmberg, James J. *Lewis and Clark at the Falls of the Ohio: A Timeline*. Typescript, 2001.

A very useful document with sources, compiled by the curator of Special Collections, The Filson Historical Society, Louisville, Ky.

• Jackson, Donald, ed. *Letters of the Lewis and Clark Expedition with Related Documents, 1783-1854*. 2nd ed. Chicago, 1978.

Extensive and invaluable work provides context before, during, and after the expedition, and an annotated bibliography.

• Moulton, Gary E., ed. *The Journals of the Lewis & Clark Expedition*. 13 vols. Lincoln, Neb., 1983-2001.

The most extensive and complete presentation of the primary sources from and on the expedition; includes the Lewis and Clark journals and other materials located after publication of prior versions of the journals.

• Philbrick, Francis S., ed. *The Laws of Indiana Territory, 1801-1809*. Indianapolis, 1931.

Reprinted from Illinois publication (1930) with supplemental Indiana materials.

• Smith, Dwight L., and Ray Swick, eds. *A Journey through the West: Thomas Rodney's 1803 Journal from Delaware to the Mississippi Territory*. Athens, Ohio, 1997.

Rodney gives a detailed account of his travels to the Mississippi Territory. On several occasions he encounters, and spends time with, Lewis and Clark as they prepare for the expedition.

• Thompson, Charles N. *Sons of the Wilderness: John and William Conner*. 2nd ed. Noblesville, Ind., 1988.

Contains valuable information about early Indiana history.

Additional Resources:

• Betts, Robert B. *In Search of York: The Slave Who Went to the Pacific with Lewis and Clark*. 2nd ed. Boulder, Colo., 2000.

Biography of York, William Clark's slave, updated with an epilogue by James J. Holmberg.

• [Biddle, Nicholas, ed.]. *History of the Expedition under the Command of Captains Lewis and Clark 2 vols*. Philadelphia, 1814.

Biddle accepted the job of editing the expedition journals from William Clark after Lewis' suicide. There was to be a third volume of scientific material which was not accomplished, leaving the image of the expedition as a romantic adventure.

• Coues, Elliott, ed. *History of the Expedition under the Command of Lewis and Clark 1893*. 3 vols. New York, 1965; reprinted as *The History of the Lewis and Clark Expedition* New York, n.d. [1970-1980?].

Coues, an ornithologist, realized the value of the scientific materials in the journals, worked from the original journals, and provided extensive footnotes on geography, ethnology, and natural history.

• Thwaites, Reuben Gold, ed. *Original Journals of the Lewis and Clark Expedition, 1804-1806*. 8 vols. New York, 1904-1905.

The journals and other documents are transcribed literally; many new items were added that had not been available for the Coues edition. There is an extensive index.

Internet Resources:

• Falls of the Ohio State Park <<http://www.falloftheohio.org>>

Located in Clarksville, Indiana; is an official site on Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail. Has information about the Falls of the Ohio Lewis and Clark Bicentennial Committee.

• Gillette, Lance, comp. *Bibliography of the Lewis and Clark Expedition* <<http://www.olympen.com/gillde/lance/bibliographies/lewis.htm>>

• Indiana Lewis and Clark Bicentennial Commission <<http://www.IN.gov/dnr/lewis-clark/>>

Highlights Indiana's important role in the expedition and lists events to commemorate the expedition.

• Jefferson's West <<http://www.monticello.org/jefferson/lewisandclark/index.html>>

From Monticello, provides good information and timeline of expedition.

• Lewis and Clark Expedition, American Treasures in the Library of Congress <<http://www.lcweb.loc.gov/exhibits/treasures/trr001.html>>

Provides images of related primary sources. See also <<http://www.lcweb.loc.gov/exhibits/lewisandclark>> for information on an exhibition at the Library of Congress.

• Lewis and Clark in Clarksville, Indiana <<http://www.lewisandclarkinclarksville.org/>>

In October 2003, Clarksville hosts the second of thirteen national signature events commemorating the expedition. The George Rogers Clark home site is featured.

• Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation, Inc. <<http://www.lewisandclark.org/>>

Brings public attention and appreciation to the expedition's contribution to America's heritage; supports education, research, development, and preservation of the Lewis and Clark experience.

• National Council of the Lewis and Clark Bicentennial 2003-2006 <<http://www.lewisandclark200.org/>>

Celebrates the achievements of the expedition and promotes the natural, historical, and cultural resources that are part of the Lewis and Clark story. Provides national timetable of commemorative events.



Maps carried by Lewis and Clark on the expedition represented the most current geographical information about North America north and west of the Mississippi River. The map to the left was published in London in 1802 by Aaron Arrowsmith. This map was used by Thomas Jefferson and Meriwether Lewis to plan the expedition; a copy was also carried with Lewis and Clark on the expedition. The map below is a redrawn copy published in 1814 of the map drawn by William Clark as a result of the expedition. This map was a major accomplishment and contribution of the expedition.

To get an idea of the enormous amount of geographical information gathered by the expedition, locate the intersection of imaginary lines drawn from the arrows on the top and right sides of each map. On both maps the intersection is the western tip of Lake Superior. On the Arrowsmith map, note the relatively empty space from the lake to the Pacific Ocean. On the Clark map, that space is filled with rivers and mountains previously unrecorded.

Library of Congress Geography and Map Division.



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